



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **OPERATION ROAD CHECK 2006** **JUNE 5-8, 2006**

The Arizona Department of Public Safety will be conducting a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement detail the week of June 5, 2006 in Flagstaff Arizona. This operation will be conducted with the combined efforts of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, The Arizona Motor Vehicle Division and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Officers will concentrate their efforts on I-17 and I-40 and will aggressively enforce federal and state laws as they relate to commercial vehicles. The American Red Cross will be on scene to provide relief for the officers, commercial vehicles drivers, and motoring public.

On June 6 and June 7, Officers will be present in the rest area on I-40 near milepost 183 and in the rest area on I-17 near milepost 320 conducting Operation Road Check. .

This operation is part of a national initiative that will start June 6, 2006. Approximately 10,000 specially-trained and certified officers will blanket North America's roadways to prevent truck and bus accidents and save lives. During Operation Road Check, federal, state, provincial and local officers will be conducting North American Standard Inspections around the clock for 72 hours from June 6 - 8 throughout North America. These inspections involve a comprehensive 37-step procedure which includes items related to vehicle, driver and cargo safety. Officers also will be giving drivers educational materials on various aspects of commercial vehicle, driver and hazardous materials safety.

As has been the case the last few years, Operation Road Check will also focus on enforcement and education of safety belt use among commercial drivers. Although the latest FMCSA statistics indicate an increase in use from 48 to 54 percent, this number is still far too low. During a similar operation in 2005, 1,150 safety belt violations were documented during the 3-day event, versus 755 in 2004. In all of 2005, 57,510 safety belt violations were recorded against commercial drivers.

A similar operation was conducted by the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division May 6 through May 12, 2006. That detail proved how effective enforcement details such as Operation Road Check improve safety on Arizona highways. The detail in May resulted in 364 commercial vehicles being contacted by Arizona Department of

Public Safety Officers. These contacts resulted in the following;

409 drivers and co-drivers were contacted, 110 of whom were placed out of service because of serious violations.

Of the 364 commercial vehicles contacted, 85 of them were placed out of service because of serious safety issues.

19 seatbelt violations were observed

14 speed violations were observed

25 load violations were cited

2 impaired commercial vehicle drivers were arrested

In total, over 2,125 commercial vehicle violations were observed.